

Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Wake Up Call to Congress on Climate Rally
May 21, 2014

Earlier this month, our nation's leading climate scientists confirmed that climate change is real, is caused by humans, and is already harming communities across America. They tell us the scientific evidence is "unequivocal."

The impacts are being felt in every region of the country. A record drought is destroying crops in California. Torrential rains have flooded Florida. Wildfires are getting more intense. Coastal areas are being inundated as sea levels rise. No sectors of our economy – from oyster hatcheries on the West Coast to maple syrup producers in New England – are untouched.

The science is clear: unless we act now to cut carbon pollution, these impacts will intensify. No state, no community, no country will be spared from climate change. We will all be affected.

And so we are at a crossroads.

One path is to listen to the scientists. We can protect our environment and our communities by curbing carbon pollution from power plants and other big polluters. We can lead the world in developing the clean energy technologies of the future. We can meet our moral obligation to preserve our fragile atmosphere for our children and grandchildren.

The other path is to deny the science and ignore the growing threat of climate change. We can stick our heads in the sand while our coastlines flood, our forests burn, and our crops wither. We can let our competitors dominate the trillion-dollar clean energy market.

The choice should be easy. It's time to Wake Up and take action on climate change.